

In the claims:

Please rewrite claims 20, 22, and 23 to read as follows:

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20. An assay method for identifying an agent useful in the treatment of an allergic or hypersensitivity condition comprising:

(a) contacting a test agent with a ganglioside receptor, wherein the agent is not coupled to an antigen;

5 (b) determining whether the agent modulates a ganglioside associated activity by measuring a change in at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of: a suppression in antigen specific IgE levels, a reduction in the production of Th2 associated cytokines, a change in antigen specific T-cell reactivity, a change in IgG levels, a change in IgA levels, and any combination thereof; and

10 (c) identifying the useful agent by observation of modulation of ganglioside associated activity.

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22. A method according to claim 21 wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of mutants or derivatives of CtxB, Etx, and EtxB that bind to GM1.

23. A method according to claim 20 wherein the agent has an effect on GM1 mediated intracellular signaling events, but no GM1 binding activity.

Please cancel claims 25 and 31 to 39 and add the following new claims 40 to

50:

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40. A method according to claim 21 wherein the agent is a mutant or derivative of EtxB that binds to GM1.

41. A method according to claim 21 wherein the agent is a mutant or derivative of Etx that binds to GM1.

42. A method according to claim 21 wherein the agent is a mutant or derivative of CtxB that binds to GM1.

43. An assay method for identifying an agent useful in the treatment of an allergic or hypersensitivity condition comprising:

(a) contacting a mutant or derivative of EtxB with a ganglioside receptor, wherein the agent is not coupled to an antigen;

5 (b) determining whether the agent modulates a ganglioside associated activity by measuring a change in at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of: a suppression in antigen specific IgE levels, a reduction in the production of Th2 associated cytokines, a change in antigen specific T-cell reactivity, a change in IgG levels, a change in IgA levels, and any combination thereof; and

10 (c) identifying the useful agent by observation of modulation of ganglioside associated activity, wherein the agent has an effect on GM1 mediated intracellular signaling events, but no GM1 binding activity.

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44 45. A method according to claim 43 wherein the agent is capable of blocking an IgE mediated response.

45 47. A method according to claim 43 wherein the agent is capable of enhancing the production of IgG, IgA, or mixtures thereof.

46 48. A method according to claim 43 wherein the agent reduces the production of cytokine IL-4.

47 49. A method according to claim 43 wherein the agent increases the expression of cytokine IL-10.

48 50. A method according to claim 43 wherein the agent increases the expression of cytokine TGF β .